

THE JOHNSON CITY COMET

Thirty-Third Year.

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BATTLE WITH MEXICANS

SCORE OF U. S. SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN CLASH.

BLAME PUT ON AMERICANS

PERSHING'S MEN MOWED DOWN BY MACHINE GUNS.

EL PASO, Tex., June 21.—American and Carranza troops fought a sanguinary battle today only a few hours after President Wilson's six-thousand-word note warning General Carranza that the "gravest consequences would follow an attack upon American forces in Mexico, had gone forward. With which side victory rested was not known on the border tonight, as no report from General Pershing had come through.

Casualties also were not known, but a score of Gen. Pershing's men were said to have been killed and the Mexicans were reported to have lost more than forty. Seventeen Americans were declared by Mexican officials to have been captured and hurried to Chihuahua City under guard. A machine gun used by the Mexicans was said to have done heavy execution. The engagement occurred near the town of Carrizal, nine miles southeast of Villa Ahumada, the Mexican field headquarters in Northern Chihuahua.

News of the battle was received in Juarez early this afternoon by General Francisco Gonzales, Carranza commander of the military zone of the border. J. C. Hubble, returning to the border from the interior, brought to El Paso the news that he had seen numbers of Mexican dead along the Mexican Central railroad tracks at Villa Ahumada and had been told that there had been an encounter.

General Gonzales' first step after confirming the news was to issue a statement placing the blame on the American commander. He charged that the American troops fired first on the Mexicans, and that their shots were directed at a courier who had just presented to them a request that they retire.

American army officers declared absolute disbelief tonight in General Gonzales' assertions. The opinion was expressed that if the Americans fired on the Mexicans they did so because it was necessary in order to insure their own safety.

Excitement spread in El Paso as extras were issued and the news became known. Quiet was maintained, however, in view of General Bell's frequent admonitions that his soldiers could take care of any situation that might arise. While awaiting instructions from headquarters at San Antonio, General Bell kept his entire force in readiness for instant action.

Whichever side began the engagement, the Mexicans had the advantage, for they had provided themselves with a machine gun and this is supposed to have done deadly execution in the ranks of the Americans. That the latter were not inefficient, however, was proved by the number of Mexicans dead and wounded, removed to Villa Ahumada and witnessed by Americans coming north on a train bound for Juarez.

The battle began about 10:30 a. m. and lasted not more than an hour. It apparently ended with both sides withdrawing. The failure of General Pershing to report on it indicated that the American survivors had not yet returned to their base at an early hour tonight.

Washington, June 21.—Much depends, it was indicated, on whether the clash was a result of General Carranza's determination to enforce his demand for withdrawal of American troops from Mexico or merely a detached incident, arising out of a misunderstanding between commanders.

If it was a deliberate attempt to back up the Carranza edict by force, there seems little doubt that President Wilson will accept it as an act of war and make good his words in the latest communication to the de facto government, in which he said that any such attempt would be followed by the "gravest consequences."

GREAT BUILDING BOOM:

500 BUILDINGS GOING UP

It is estimated that the number of business and residence buildings going up in Kingsport will easily run around the five hundred mark. This building boom is continuous. The sound of the hammer can be heard all over Kingsport. Keep your eyes on Kingsport.

TENNESSEE CAN MOBILIZE EIGHTEEN HUNDRED MEN WITHIN TEN DAYS' TIME

Adjutant Gen. Rogan Believes Less Than One-Third Will Be Disqualified on Account of Physical Unfitness.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 18.—Adjutant-General Charles B. Rogan, tonight said that he can have 1,800 men mobilized at the Tennessee State Fair grounds in Nashville within a week or ten days, and that in his opinion less than 30 per cent will be disqualified from service on account of physical unfitness.

The Tennessee troops consist of one full regiment of infantry, the Third Tennessee, eleven companies of the First, and with fifty men already enrolled in the Twelfth company, which, when enrolled to its full strength of 68 men, will give two regiments of infantry. In addition there is one unattached company of negro infantry, one unattached troop of cavalry, two sanitary units, one ambulance company and one field hospital.

General Charles B. Rogan announced tonight that anticipating a possible call for the state troops, he has made all arrangements for mobilizing them, so far as possible.

Governor Rye's proclamation has been prepared, and is ready for the signature. Arrangements for the transportation of troops to the capital have been made.

"War envelopes" have been issued to the commander of each organization, containing information as to recruiting, movements of the organization, examination of troops, etc. A lieutenant in each company and troop has been designated to remain at the home station on recruiting duty.

CONGRESSMAN AUSTIN PLEDGES SECOND DISTRICT

To Its Largest Majority For Judge Hughes—Calls on Candidate at His Washington Home.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17.—Knoxville's members of congress, Senator John K. Shields and Congressman R. W. Austin, democratic and republican members of the two national congressional committees respectively, were in the limelight in Washington today.

Senator Shields gave out an interview in which he gave unqualified endorsement to the democratic platform adopted at St. Louis this week and declared that President Wilson would be re-elected. "The platform goes beyond the limit of mere party lines," said Senator Shields, "and sounds the spirit of Americanism and patriotism that has pulsated the heart of the American people since the landing of our fathers to plant this republic. It is inviting and has the proper ring and with President Wilson's fine record he cannot fail at the election in November," he said.

Congressman Austin, just as enthusiastic as Senator Shields, but along opposite lines, called upon former Justice Chas. E. Hughes at his residence at Sixteenth and V streets accompanied by Representative Percy Madden of Illinois, told him that the second district would give him the biggest majority ever polled by a republican nominee for President, and that "we are solid for you." Mr. Austin left tonight for Augusta, Me., to attend the funeral of Senator Burleigh, having been appointed today by Speaker Clark to represent the republicans of the house at the funeral.

Sensor Shields has not yet visited Tennessee as contemplated but hopes to do so next week.

MEXICANS SEIZE THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC AND CUT WIRES AT BORDER

TUCSON, Ariz., June 18.—Sonora military authorities have seized the Southern Pacific of Mexico system and cut all telegraph wires at the border, according to private advices here late today.

The Mexican custom house records have been transferred from Nogales, Mexico, to some point south of the international line.

A demonstration of armed civilians in Nogales, Mexico, ended early this morning. Boys 12 years old there have been armed by the military authorities. Eighteen carloads of Mexican families have been sent to the south. Several Americans arrested there last night were released this morning.

Gen. P. Elias Calles, commanding in Sonora, arrived at the border early this morning, and left immediately for Naco.

A strict censorship of all messages to the interior is in force at Nogales. Fear is felt for the safety of Americans at Empalme, Sonora.

SENATOR LEA IN KNOXVILLE

HOLDS CONFERENCE WITH DEMOCRATIC FRIENDS.

TO SPEAK AT ROGERSVILLE

HASTENING TO CAPITAL TO SUPPORT WATERWAYS BILL.

(Knoxville Journal and Tribune.) Hon. Luke Lea, senior U. S. senator from Tennessee, was in Knoxville yesterday morning for a visit of a few hours. Senator Lea arrived in the city from Nashville at 7:30 o'clock en route to his post of duty at Washington.

Before going to the national capital, however, he will spend a day or so at the printers' and pressmen's home near Rogersville, of which George L. Berry is the superintendent. Senator Lea will address the delegates of the annual convention, now in session there, either today or tomorrow.

On this trip, Senator Lea was accompanied by Harvey H. Hannah, a member of the state railroad commission from East Tennessee. Senator Lea and Gen. Hannah were taken to Rogersville over land by Ambrose Gaines in the latter's automobile. They left Knoxville about noon.

While here, Senator Lea met several of his democratic friends. It is said they conferred over the political situation, particularly the meeting of the state democratic executive committee which meets in Nashville today.

Senator Lea has indicated through the columns of his paper that he stands for the election of Thad. A. Cox, of Washington county, over Judge L. D. Hill, of White county, the present chairman.

Senator Lea visited this city two weeks ago and met at that time some of the leading democrats of Knoxville and East Tennessee. On that occasion, it is said that the state committee situation was thoroughly discussed, and that plans were talked of which would result in the selection of Mr. Cox.

Senator Lea is hurrying back to Washington at this time, he told his Knoxville friends yesterday, to lend his support to the waterways bill before the house. Tennessee is asking for considerable river improvement, and the senator will represent his constituents in this fight.

Senator Lea is also interested in bringing the proposed government nitrate plant to Tennessee. The business men of Nashville are making a strong bid for a slice of \$20,000,000 the government has appropriated for the establishment of these plants.

Senator John K. Shields is also interested in the waterways bill and has been in Washington seeking advantage for Tennessee, particularly East Tennessee.

Sensor Shields was due to be in Knoxville the latter part of last week as well as the first part of this week, but the waterways subject assumed such proportions that he felt it his duty to remain at the capital for the time being.

ADDITIONAL GUNBOATS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO MEXICAN WATERS

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 18.—Secretary Daniels tonight ordered several additional gunboats and other small craft on both the east and west coasts to Mexican waters.

Mr. Daniels described the movement of ships as "precautionary." He directed Rear Admiral Winslow, commander of the west coast division, to make a selection of several available vessels and despatch them to join other vessels at ports which he is now watching.

Rear Admiral Benson, chief aide for operations of the navy department, was called into conference with Secretary Daniels tonight to select the ships to be sent from the east coast. These probably will be despatched to Vera Cruz and Tampico.

No other additional ship movements are contemplated at the present time, Secretary Daniels declared. It was explained, however, that more may be sent if any future developments indicate they are needed.

Call at The Times office and tell us when your friends come in to visit you or when they go away. Please do not have any hesitancy in giving us a news item at any time. We appreciate any information you may give us.

CARRANZA IS GIVEN TIME

AWAITING ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON ON MEXICAN BORDER

WAR PREPARATION RAPID

WILSON YET HOPES TO AVOID CLASH WITH MEXICO.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 22.—Apparently both the United States government and the de facto authorities of Mexico hope to treat the clash at Carrizal yesterday as an incident aggravating already strained relations, but not of itself likely to precipitate general hostilities. This fact stood out tonight as the most prominent of the day's developments in the Mexican situation.

So far as the Washington administration is concerned, no final decision can be reached until President Wilson has received a report on the fight from American army officials. All information so far has come from Mexican sources.

Events moved swiftly here during the day and preparations by the War Department for possible war with the Mexican government went forward rapidly. At the same time there came hints that General Carranza had been almost persuaded by European influences not to persist in a cause certain to bring on a conflict.

Many officials here have not abandoned hope of a peaceful outcome, although they admit that each day since the present friction began has seen new clouds gather. Their hopes against war are based solely on the reports that have reached them indirectly that the Carranza government is inclined to seek a peaceful way out.

Don't Believe Americans to Blame. Although they had only Mexican reports to go on, officials today did not question statements that many American cavalymen were killed, wounded or captured. In view of the order given American commanders in Mexico, however, they refuse to credit the charge that the commander of the detachment was the aggressor.

Lansing Issues Circular Note.

A circular note was addressed to the South and Central American diplomats by Secretary Lansing in connection with the Mexican situation. It accompanied copies of the note to General Carranza, distributed as a matter of information, and was accepted by the diplomats as the last word of the United States before proceeding with any steps which Carranza's course might make necessary.

Battle Started by Unprovoked Mexican Attack.

San Antonio, Tex., June 22.—Stragglers from the Tenth cavalry detachment that was in the fight at Carrizal arrived at Gen. Pershing's headquarters today and told him that the fighting began with an unprovoked attack on the Americans at the conclusion of a parley with the Mexican commander. General Pershing transmitted their story to General Funston tonight, who immediately referred it to the War Department.

The men were unable to tell anything regarding the casualties or even the later phases of the engagement. They retreated during the fight, became separated from their commands, making their way back to the American lines.

THE NEW "OUSTER LAW" IN VIRGINIA

BRISTOL, Tenn., June 17.—The citizens of Bristol, Va., are about convinced that there is no law so effective to secure law enforcement as an "ouster law." The new ouster law in Virginia is causing municipal authorities to bestir themselves.

Mayor Warren, of Bristol, Va., declares that in his city the "blue laws" will be enforced. He has caused notice to be served on the local dealers that they must shut up shop on Sunday, except for work that may be construed as a necessity. He is unable to say to what extent this will close up shops of various kinds until he has received definite instructions from the attorney-general of the state. It is expected that Attorney-General Pollard will instruct all municipal governments along this line.

The lid is now to be on Bristol, Va., and ministers and churchmen who have long opposed Sunday selling declare that they are going to invoke the new ouster law to see that the "blue laws" are enforced.

DEL RIO IS THREATENED

CARRANZA TROOPS ON WAY FOR ATTACK ON AMERICANS.

U. S. TROOPS REINFORCED

ARMY 1,500 STRONG MARCHING ON BORDER TOWN.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., June 19.—The Mexican government troops tonight were reported to be marching towards Del Rio, a border town about 100 miles up the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass, with the announced intention of attacking the Americans there. This information was the most notable bit of evidence indicating the attitude of the de facto government that has reached General Funston.

News that the troops were advancing toward the border was brought by a Mexican, who said the force was 1,500 strong. According to his report, the Mexican troops said they intended to attack the Americans tonight or tomorrow night.

It was estimated that late today they were about forty miles south of Del Rio.

U. S. Troops Reinforced.

Colonel Sibley, of the Fourteenth cavalry, who commanded the expedition that entered Mexico after the Glenn Springs raid, is in command at Del Rio. It was believed here that he was prepared to take care of his position, but General Greene sent from Eagle Pass in motor trucks a battalion of the Third infantry. The battalion should arrive at Del Rio before morning.

The Mexican force reported moving north is believed to be the same force sent north by the Governor of Coahuila, Gustavo Mirelos Espinosa, with instructions to drive Colonel Sibley's force from Mexico when he was operating south of Glenn Springs.

Carranza Soldiers and U. S. Seamen Clash.

Washington, June 19.—A clash between Carranza soldiers and American seamen from the gunboat Annapolis, at Mazatlan, was called to the attention of the Washington government today by General Carranza's ambassador here with a request that in the existing tense situation no man be landed in Mexico from warships under any circumstances.

The incident, which occurred yesterday, resulted in casualties on both sides and in the capture of two American officers who, after an explanation, were released, according to the report presented by the ambassador. A dispatch from Admiral Winslow, of the Pacific fleet, announcing the capture of the men, made no mention of their release, but officials assumed it had occurred after the message was sent. The only American injured was Boatswain's mate I. M. Laughter who, the admiral reported, was "gravely wounded."

Admiral Winslow sent only a brief account of the incident and Navy Department officials immediately requested a more detailed report. Meantime there was no indication that the ambassador's request would alter in any way the administration's plans for protecting Americans in Mexican coast towns, which would involve sending marines and blue-jackets ashore to bring off refugees should an emergency require it.

More than a score of American war vessels already are in Mexican waters and en route there, are being held in readiness to go as refugee ships.

TILLMAN IS FOR A \$28,000,000 BATTLESHIP

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19.—Senator Tillman, of the senate naval committee, today prepared a resolution authorizing the construction of the largest battleship that can possibly use the Panama canal. Such a vessel would be 995 feet long and would cost \$28,000,000.

Senator Tillman did not get an opportunity to introduce the resolution today, but he announced he would call the matter to the attention of the senate naval committee, which meets tomorrow to take up the building program, provided for in the naval program bill passed by the house.

AGENTS WANTED.

We want agents everywhere to solicit subscriptions for The Kingsport Times. A liberal commission to the right parties.

SOLONS OF THE NATION MAY BE FORCED TO LEAVE FOR THE FRONT

Congressmen Who Are Members of National Guard Are Likely To Be Called.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19.—President Wilson's call for the National Guard for border duty renewed today a perplexing question as to the status under the new army reorganization act of members of Congress who are also members of the National Guard. A House subcommittee named some weeks ago to study the question has not reported.

Representative Chipfield, who is Judge Advocate of the Illinois National Guard, expressed the opinion that a member of Congress, if ordered to the front, should resign from Congress. Speaker Clark recalled that General John A. Logan resigned from Congress to serve in the civil war, but that Gen. Blair's resignation from Congress was pocketed by President Lincoln and never was accepted. Joseph A. Wheeler, a major general in the Spanish war, resumed his seat in Congress after the declaration of peace, but while serving with the colors, drew no pay as a member.

Senator Wadsworth is a lieutenant in the New York National Guard and in the absence of his captain in Europe, it was said today, would command troop M. Representative Tillson is a lieutenant in the Connecticut guard; Representative Crago is a lieutenant colonel of the Tenth Pennsylvania and Representative Nicholls is a member of the South Carolina Guard.

MEXICANS URGED TO VOLUNTEER TO FIGHT THE AMERICAN ARMY

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mexico, June 18.—Fervent efforts to bring every unit of the Carranza army of the north to greatest possible strength for service in the event of hostilities with the United States, were being pushed forward here today. A message from General Obregon, Mexican minister of war, directed General Jacinto Trevino, commanding the northern division, to urge patriotic citizens to volunteer that they may be available "to fight the American army, in case of a rupture of relations," and to prevent "the further raiding of American territory by armed bandits."

BLOOD-HOUND EVIDENCE CONVICTS CRIMINALS

And It Has Done So From Time Immemorial.

We publish below two cases—clipped from the Atlanta Constitution—one a Kansas case, another a Florida case, showing the value of bloodhounds in bringing criminals to justice. In the Florida case two young men plead guilty; while in the Kansas case the criminal "denied" it, but he is found guilty of first degree murder.

Two Brothers Murder Two Negro Preachers; the Young White Men Plead Guilty and Are Given Twenty Years in Prison.

Marianna, Fla., April 12.—Wilbur and Burton Logan, two young brothers on trial with the third brother, Roland Logan, today pleaded guilty by agreement to manslaughter, and the third brother was given a jury verdict of not guilty. The two young men were sentenced to twenty years imprisonment, the maximum penalty. The brothers were charged with murdering two negro preachers and their trial had progressed two days, this being the second trial of the case. The evidence against the white men, all prominent in this section, hinged on the work of a bloodhound, which followed tracks from where the bodies of the negroes were found to the Logan home.

Found Guilty of Murder—Farm Hand Was Charged With Killing Kansas School Teacher.

Syracuse, Kas., June 5.—Arcene Sweet, a farm hand, was found guilty of first degree murder for the killing of Miss Nellie J. Byers, a Grant county school teacher. Under the verdict Sweet would be sentenced to the penitentiary for life. His attorneys gave notice of an appeal. The body of the school teacher, who was 23 years old, was found in the weeds on a lonely road in October, 1912, near here. She had been strangled to death. Sweet surrendered after bloodhounds had been put on his trail, but maintained his innocence.

To keep up with Kingsport subscribe for The Times.

ON ORDER OF PRESIDENT

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN CALLED INTO FEDERAL SERVICE.

IS SIGNED BY SEC. BAKER

WILL ASSEMBLE AT STATE CAMP GROUNDS TO BE MUSTERED IN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 18.—The President's order calling the national guard into the federal service went to the governor of each state in the form of the following telegram signed by Secretary Baker:

"Having in view the possibility of further aggression upon the territory of the United States from Mexico, and the necessity for the proper protection of that frontier, the President has thought proper to exercise the authority vested in him by the constitution and laws and call out the organized militia and the national guard necessary for that purpose. I am in consequence instructed by the President to call into the service of the United States forthwith, through you, the following units of the organized militia and national guard of the state of — which the President directs shall be assembled at the state mobilization point, state camp ground (or at the places to be designated to you by the commanding general — department) for muster into the service of the United States:

(Here follow a list of the organizations to be furnished by the designated state.)

"Organizations to be accepted into federal service should have the minimum peace strength now prescribed for organized militia. The maximum strength at which organizations will be accepted and to which they should be raised as soon as possible, is prescribed in section two, tables of organization, United States army. In case any regiment, battalion or squadron now recognized as such contains an insufficient number of organizations necessary to complete such units may be moved to mobilization camps and there inspected under orders of the department commander to determine fitness for recognition as organized militia by the war department.

"Circular 19, Division of Militia Affairs, 1914, prescribes the organization desired from states as part of the local tactical division and only these organizations will be accepted into service.

"It is requested that all officers of the adjutant general's department, quartermaster's corps and medical corps duly recognized as pertaining to state quarters under table one, tables of organization, organized militia, and not elsewhere required for duty in state administration, be ordered to camp for duty at camp stag offices. Such number of these staff officers as the department commander may determine may be mustered into the service of the United States for the purpose of proper camp administration and will be mustered out when their services are no longer required.

"Where recognized brigades or divisions are called into service from a state, the staff officers pertaining to these units under tables of organization, United States army, will be mustered into service and also the authorized sectors of small arms practice pertaining thereto.

"Except for these two purposes of mobilization camp service and of the prescribed camp service with tactical units, officers of state headquarters under table one, above mentioned, will not be mustered into service at this time. If tactical divisions are later organized the requisite official number of staff officers with rank as prescribed for division staff will, as far as practicable, be called into service from those states which have furnished troops to such divisions.

(Signed)

"NEWTON D. BAKER."

SENATOR BRYAN OF FLORIDA MAY SUCCEED HUGHES

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19.—Senator Fletcher and members of the Florida congressional delegation asked President Wilson today to appoint Senator Bryan, of Florida, to the supreme court to succeed former Justice Hughes. Senator Bryan has been defeated for another term.

The President took the suggestion under advisement.